

# Loudoun Citizen Update

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## “SMART GROWTH” ZONING ORDINANCE TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THIS FALL

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors will hold two public hearings in the Fall to take comment from residents regarding the proposed zoning ordinance. The Board and the Planning Commission began their review of draft materials related to the zoning ordinance revision and re-mapping project at a joint meeting on Monday, April 22 as part of the ongoing effort to implement the “Smart Growth” principles contained in the Revised Comprehensive Plan approved last year (July 2001). The Planning Commission conducted two separate public hearings on the proposal in August.

The benefits of the Comprehensive Plan include:

- Fewer New Houses to be built in the East and West
- \$250 Million Savings to Taxpayers
- Reduced Traffic Congestion
- Responsible Economic Development
- Protection of Open Space and the Environment

## LOUDOUN’S STRONG BOND RATING REAFFIRMED AT AA+

After an exhaustive review of the County’s finances, the three major Wall Street Bond Rating Agencies have reaffirmed Loudoun County’s strong bond rating of AA+.

Moody’s Investors Service has affirmed its Aa1 rating, saying that “the county’s proactive approach to land use planning, interconnected with capital planning, is expected to save...at least \$250 million in infrastructure costs,” and that the county’s planning efforts have been “highly focused and effective.”

In issuing its rating, Moody’s states that it expects “good management to continue to balance rapid development with preservation of valuable rural characteristics,” and that it anticipates the county’s “record of favorable financial results and

To gain citizen input, the Supervisors directed county staff to make preparations to conduct work sessions with focus groups consisting of citizen volunteers on the zoning ordinance revision and re-mapping project. The Board’s action included the identification of various organizations from which citizen representation was drawn for participation in individual focus groups.

The use of focus groups was just one part of the public participation process. Other elements of the process included public overview sessions with the Board and the Planning Commission, presentations about the project held in different areas of the county, the use of an e-mail distribution list to keep interested parties updated on the project and a site on the County’s web page devoted to the project.

**Comprehensive Plan Benefits All Residents  
See Page Two for details**

strong fund balances will continue under its experienced management team.”

Standard and Poor’s has affirmed its AA+ rating, citing the expectation of “continued solid financial management despite the challenges related to rapid growth.”

The Standard and Poor’s report says the favorable rating reflects “a local economic base... that continues to grow and diversify, high wealth and income levels, and a moderate and manageable debt burden in spite of a significant capital program focused mainly on schools.”

Fitch IBCA has affirmed Loudoun’s AA+

*(Continued, Page Three)*

**BENEFITS OF THE REVISED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**  
**\$250 Million Savings • Reduced Traffic • Open Space Saved**

In July of 2001 the Board of Supervisors adopted the revised Comprehensive Plan to implement what is known as “Smart Growth” principles. To implement the Plan, the County must take several steps.

These steps include: comprehensively remapping the county and amending the zoning ordinance, Facilities Standards Manual and the Loudoun Subdivision Development Ordinance to compliment this remapping. The proposed amendments specifically reflect the Board’s commitment to responsible economic development, and the protection of the environment and the County’s historic and cultural resources. The Plan also provides the following benefits:

**Fewer New Houses in East and West**

The Revised Comprehensive Plan reduces the number of new houses that can be built by 44 % countywide.

**Savings to Taxpayers**

The Revised Comprehensive Plan reduces the number of public facilities that must be funded by taxpayers:

- Reduces the number of additional schools that will ultimately be needed from 125 to 64.
- Reduces the projected funding for public facilities needed by 2020 by about \$250 million.

**Transportation**

The Revised Comprehensive Plan helps alleviate future traffic congestion by promoting transportation choices beyond the automobile:

- Maintains rural roads and directs road funding and improvements to suburban Eastern Loudoun.
- Promotes the development of efficient and convenient local commuter transit services, including rail in the Dulles Greenway corridor
- Promotes significant improvements to pedestrian and bicycle networks.

**Promoting a Strong Economy**

The Revised Comprehensive Plan promotes and sustains an efficient, strong, diverse and resilient economy:

- Promotes expansion and diversification of the rural economy.
- Renews the county’s commitment to partnership with the towns in planning and economic development.

**Protecting the Environment**

The Revised Comprehensive Plan protects the environment:

- Provides strategies for protecting open space, trees, rivers, streams and mountainsides.
- Plans new development in concert with existing natural and historic features.

Documents can be viewed on-line on the County’s web site [www.loudoun.gov](http://www.loudoun.gov).

**Court Rejects Effort to Derail Comprehensive Plan**

The Virginia Supreme Court refused an appeal of the June 2001 ruling of Loudoun Circuit Court Judge Thomas Horne dismissing a lawsuit that challenged the authority of the county Planning Commission to recommend approval of the County’s Comprehensive Plan which was adopted in July 2001. In its ruling of April 10 the Supreme Court found “no reversible error” in Judge Horne’s opinion and denied the appeal.

The lawsuit sought to block planning commission action of the Comprehensive Plan, claiming that some members were not qualified to serve on the commission, that the County failed to complete required technical studies and that the County failed to provide required notice of the plan adoption.

IMPORTANT LOUDOUN COUNTY PHONE NUMBERS

Clip and Save

Animal Control .....	703-777-0406	Mapping & Geographic Info. ....	703-771-5778
Board of Supervisors .....	703-777-0204	Mental Health .....	703-771-5100
Building & Development.....	703-777-0397	Mental Retardation .....	703-777-0377
Building Code Inspections.....	703-777-0220	(V/TTY)	
(V/TTY)		Parks, Recreation & Com. Serv.	703-777-0343
Clerk of the Circuit Court .....	703-777-0270	(V/TTY)	
Commissioner of the Revenue...	703-777-0260	Office on Youth.....	703-777-0358
Commonwealth’s Attorney .....	703-777-0242	Area Agency on Aging .....	703-777-0257
Community Corrections .....	703-777-0207	(V/TTY)	
Cooperative Extension.....	703-777-0373	Planning .....	703-777-0246
County Administration .....	703-777-0200	Public Information .....	703-777-0113
County Jobline .....	703-777-0536	Schools.....	703-771-6400
Economic Development .....	703-777-0426	Sheriff’s Office (Admin.) .....	703-777-0407
Financial Services .....	703-777-0290	Social Services.....	703-777-0353
Fire and Rescue (Admin.).....	703-777-0333	Solid Waste Management .....	703-777-0187
General Services .....	703-771-5552	Transportation .....	703-737-8624
Health Department.....	703-777-0236	Commuter Bus .....	703-771-5665
Housing Services .....	703-777-0389	Ridesharing .....	703-771-5665
(V/TTY)		Treasurer .....	703-777-0280
Library Services.....	703-777-0368	Victim Witness .....	703-777-0417
(V/TTY)		Voter Registration .....	703-777-0380

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR SUPERVISOR

Members of the Board of Supervisors can be contacted by telephone at 703-777-0204, by email at LOUDOUNBOS@AOL.COM or in writing: Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, 1 Harrison Street, SE, Fifth Floor, Leesburg VA 20177

Bond Rating Reaffirmed....

rating, citing “the county’s strong financial policies and performance, rapidly expanding and diversifying economy, and above-average wealth levels.”

The three bond rating agencies agreed that Loudoun’s economic outlook remains strong, citing as examples the planned Howard Hughes Medical Institute Biomedical Research Campus, the expansion of Loudoun’s George Washington University campus, the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum which will open near Dulles Airport in 2003, and the addition of Nordstrom to Dulles Town Center.

Future Public Hearings

The Board of Supervisors will conduct two public hearings in the Fall concerning the zoning ordinance and remapping. Further information will be made available as soon as the dates are finalized and the public hearing calendar is set.

Meetings will be held in the Board Room in the Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, SE, Leesburg.

Visit us on the Internet  
www.loudoun.gov



AGREEMENT ON ROUTE 28 IMPROVEMENTS REACHED

Other Transportation Improvements Must Be Addressed

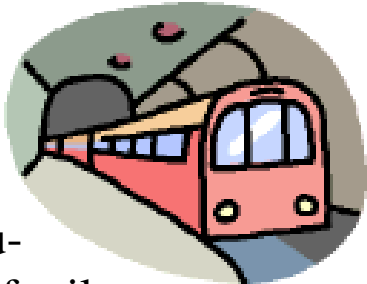
The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has approved the agreement reached between Loudoun County, Fairfax County and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to put in place the financing mechanism to make the critically important infrastructure improvements on Route 28. This agreement is just one of a number of components needed to successfully address Loudoun County’s transportation needs.

The agreement is important, in particular to the Dulles corridor, because Route 28 is a vital component of the transportation network and economic vitality of Loudoun County. With the future opening of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Dulles, existing and future economic activity on Route 28 improvements to Route 28 are needed now more than ever.

These improvements, however, are just one piece of the overall transportation puzzle

that must be put together. In particular, the County is focusing its attention on making sure that the necessary resources are put in place to address the myriad of transportation issues facing our County, including road improvements, pedestrian access and public transit.

In addition to Route 28, Loudoun County will be making a capital contribution towards the extension of rail to Dulles Airport. This project is a joint effort with Fairfax County, the Washington Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Federal government.



The County continues to fight for its fair share of transportation funding to make the necessary improvements to other major arteries in Loudoun County to address congestion and other transportation needs.

PUBLIC SAFETY: A BUDGETARY PRIORITY

Sheriff #1 Public Safety Department

After education, public safety accounts for the second largest category of spending in the County budget. 10.1% of property taxes are spent on public safety components of County government.

The increase in County population has

had a dramatic impact on the demand for services. The number of personnel in each of these departments has increased to meet the demand for services from residents and to ensure public safety. The budgets and number of full-time personnel in each department is indicated in the table below.

Department	2000 Full Time Employees	2000 Budget	2003 Full Time Employees	2003 Budget
Sheriff	321	\$19.7 million	444	\$33.5 million
Fire/Rescue	132	\$9.9 million	254	\$24.2 million
Animal Care & Control	20	\$1 million	32	\$1.8 million
Community Corrections	8	\$437,795	13	\$956,963
Juvenile Court Service Unit	7	\$359,392	12	\$906,441